

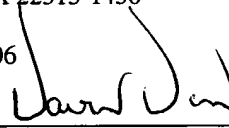


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Reis et al.) Art Unit: 1617
Serial No: 10/600,055) Examiner: Wang, Shengjun
Filed: 06/20/2003) Docket No.: 1/1358
For: Pharmaceutical Compositions for the Treatment of Systemic Inflammatory
Response Syndrome

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

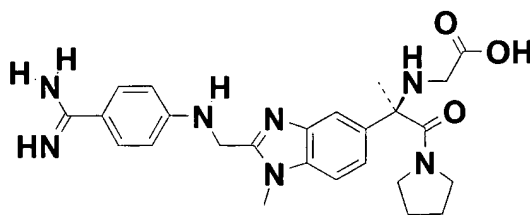
<p style="text-align: center;">Certificate of Mailing</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:</p> <p>Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p> <p>on July 12, 2006</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> _____ David A. Dow</p>
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement June 12, 2006, Applicants hereby elect without traverse to prosecute in this application the subject matter of Group I, claims 1 to 14 drawn to a method of treating SIRS or related disease states. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute in one or more divisional applications whatever subject matter is not allowed here.

The Examiner has requested that applicant elect a single disclosed species. As the single benzimidazole compound applicant hereby elects the compound of formula IIa



(shown on page 3 of the description) and recited in claim 2. The USPTO's Markush Practice is set forth at MPEP 803.02. According to this practice, if the elected species is found to be patentable over the prior art, the search will be extended to the non-elected species to the extent necessary to determine the patentability of the Markush-type claim. Therefore, if the elected species is found patentable, it is proper to extend the search to non-elected species covered by the claims.

The Examiner also requested that the applicant elect second agents the co-administration mentioned in claims 7 to 14. Applicant hereby elects the physiological activators and inhibitors of the clotting system and their recombinant analogues of claim 11.

The claims that are readable upon the elected invention are: Claims 1 – 6 and 11-12.

Respectfully submitted,

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